FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 DECEMBER 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Kuwait's *AL-QABAS*, citing a "high-level" diplomatic source, revealed that Iraq will receive "advanced" Soviet defensive weapons that have never before been given to a country outside the Warsaw Pact, according to QNA. The paper added that an Iraqi military delegation left for Moscow 18 December as part of the implementation of the new agreement.

Maghreb Affairs

The Algiers Daily *EL MOUDJAHID* castigated opposition leaders Hocine Ait Ahmed and Ahmed Ben Bella in a commentary cited by APS, condemning the "high level advertising campaign waged from abroad" by "sowers of confusion." These "troublemakers" are ill advised to speak of human rights and democracy because in the past they were "the worst torturers and the most notorious totalitarians," the paper maintained.

At a London press conference reported by MAP, Ben Bella and Ait Ahmed claimed that their movement enjoys the support of the "living forces" in Algeria and they described the present system as a "backward" form of the Soviet regime. Ben Bella also criticized Algeria's Western Sahara policy, asserting that Morocco must remain united and that it is not in Algeria's interest to undermine Morocco's territorial integrity.

In another development concerning the Western Sahara, the president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SDAR) announced the composition of a new SDAR government, according to Algiers radio.

As for Tunisian affairs, TAP noted the Tunisian foreign minister's arrival in Moscow for talks with leading Soviet officials.

Egyptian-Libyan Relations

Citing an "Egyptian presidential source," Kuwait's *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* asserted that Libyan leader Colonel mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will visit Cairo in the "first 10 days" of January accompanied by "an Arab president whose country maintains close ties with Egypt," according to KUNA. The source also told the paper that Al-Qadhdhafi's desire to make the visit was conveyed to Egypt by an Arab president. Monitored Egyptian and Libyan media have neither confirmed nor denied that the visit will take place.

Sudan

Minister of Finance and Economic Planning 'Awad 'Abd al-Majid resigned 18 December, SUNA reported. The minister attributed his decision to the Council of Ministers' lack of confidence in him as illustrated by their rejection of his proposed economic policies.

Israel and Africa

Israel and the Ivory Coast have agreed to resume diplomatic relations, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres announced in an interview broadcast by Jerusalem television after meeting with the Ivory Coast president in Geneva. Peres subsequently predicted that Israel will establish relations with four other African countries in the near future, Jerusalem radio reported.

Syria

On Syria's deployment of SAM-2's near the Lebanese border, an *AL-BA'TH editorial cited by Damascus radio sharply criticized* the United States for joining with Israel in expressing concern about the movement of defensive weapons inside Syrian territory while remaining absolutely silent over Israeli air "provocations" in the Al-Nabk area of Syria. The United States neither condemned these Israeli overflights nor asked Israel to stop them, the paper added, stressing that it was not Syrian planes that flew over Tel Aviv, but Israeli planes that flew in a "provocative manner a few kilometers from Damascus."

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Kabul Reports Reply Message From USSR Leadership
LD182253 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] The following telegram from the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers, has arrived in Kabul in reply to the congratulatory telegram from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and Soltan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, on the occasion of 68th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution:

Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council;

Comrade Soltan Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers:

The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Minsiters express their heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your warm congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of 68th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

We share your confidence that the friendly relations, revolutionary solidarity, equal and all-round cooperation between the USSR and the DRA are fully responding to the interests of our countries' people and act as a confident guarantor of securing peace and stability in the region and all over the world.

Taking this opportunity, we wish further victories to the friendly people of Afghanistan, to the PDPA Revolutionary Council, the DRA Government, and to you personally, dear comrades, for the defense and consolidation of the gains of the April Revolution, the further socioeconomic and cultural progress of your country, and the construction of a new, free, and just society in the interest of the toilers of Revolutionary Afghanistan.

[Signed] The CPSU Central Committee;

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium;

The USSR Council of Ministers;

Moscow, Kremlin, 16 December 1985.

UK Labor MP Meets Officials, Visits Industries
LD182147 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] Sulayman La'eq, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of nationalities and tribal affairs, met the delegation of British-Afghanistan Friendship Society yesterday morning in his office. They spoke about subjects of mutual interest.

The delegation of the British-Afghanistan Friendship Society, headed by Ronald Brown of the British Labor Party, and member of the Presidium of the British-Afghanistan Friendship Society, arrived in Kabul at the invitation of the DRA Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization.

According to another report, Abdorrahim Hatef, chairman of the Central Council of the DRA National Fatherland Front, met the British-Afghanistan Friendship Society delegation yesterday afternoon in his office. At this meeting, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, the delegation explained the activities of the British-Afghanistan Friendship Society in introducting Afghanistan's revolution and its humane objectives, and enlightening the minds of the British people on the facts of this revolution.

A BIA correspondent reports that the delegation of the British-Afghanistan Friendship Society, headed by Ronald Brown from the British Labour Party and member of the Presidium of the British-Afghanistan Friendship Society, who came to Kabul at the invitation of the DRA Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization, today visited various sections of the Bagrami textile mill and the peasantry cooperative of Qala-e Ahmad Khan, Bagrami District.

During this visit the respective officials explained about the facilities provided by the party and our revolutionary government to improve the living standard of the workers, peasants, and other toilers of the country, and replied to the questions raised by the guests.

Security Forces Seize Weapons in Paghman
LD171702 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1230 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Kabul, 15 Dec (BAKHTAR) — Quoting a responsible source in the Security Forces, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that in successful operations carried out by the security forces in the areas of (?Sang Safid, Parachi, and Dodamast) in Paghman district, one rocker launcher, 13 assorted weapons, 2,500 rounds of ammunition, five boxes of DShK ammunition rounds, and eight antitank mines and hand granades were seized.

Missiles Seized
LD172142 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Quoting a security forces spokesman, the BIA correspondent reports that as a result of the country's security forces operations which were recently carried out in the Paghman district surface-to-surface missiles were seized by the country's security forces.

Riyadh: Mujahidin Kills 15 Soviet, Afghan Pilots
GF152002 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin killed 15 Soviet and Afghan pilots and destroyed two planes during a rocket attack yesterday against Qandahar airport in southeastern Afghanistan.

Diplomatic sources said that last month the Soviets had bolstered their air force at Qandahar airport in order to launch successive attacks on the ranks of the Afghan resistance.

SPA Report on Recent Mujahidin Victories

GF171640 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 11500 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Excerpts] Islamabad, 17 Dec (SPA) — Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad today said that 50 to 65 Afghan soldiers were killed and a large number of others wounded when a booby-trapped jeep blew up near Kabul airport on 8 December. The sources said that the government forces were in a military building near the airport and were awaiting a flight to southern Qandahar. The Afghan authorities said that only 9 people were killed and 54 others wounded in the bomb explosion incident, but Western diplomatic sources said that the number of the dead might reach as high as 65. The sources said that the explosion of the booby-trapped car was one of four attacks recently launched by resistance men against pro-soviet government forces in Kabul.

The sources also pointed out that fierce fighting had taken place between mujahidin forces and government forces in the region of Ghazni, southern Kabul, and in Kalat on the highway between Kabul and Qandahar. The sources said that heavy personnel and equipment damages were inflicted upon the government and Soviet forces.

On the other hand, mujahidin sources said that joint forces from the Islamic Union of the Afghanistan Mujahidin, led by Professor Abdorrab Rasul Sayyaf, and the Islamic Party, led by Engineer Hekamtyar, captured the Chuney fortress which had been beseiged by the mujahidin for more than 3 years. By capturing this fortness, which is regarded as the most strategic fortress in the Paktia Province, the road leading to Kabul is now under the total control of the mujahidin.

The sources pointed out that the Russians had great hopes in the strength of this fortress and the impossibility of its seizure and that they had turned the fortress into an arsenal protecting roads leading to Kabul. During this battle, more than 250 Soviet and Afghan Government soldiers were killed or captured. Reinforcement forces stationed in the fortress fled, leaving behind most of their arms and ammunition due to severe confusion during their retreat. The mujahidin captured large quantities of ammunition and arms. Seven mujahidin were martyred.

Following their comprehensive attack in Panjshir Valley in recent weeks, the mujahidin liberated seven fortified positions which were occupied by the Soviets during their recent attack on the valley.

Reports say that the Soviets are seriously considering transferring the capital from Kabul to another city near the Soviet border, such as Mazar-e Sharif. Following the seizure of the Chuney fortress, the situation has become more embarrassing for the communist forces in Kabul and it has become impossible to protect against mujahidin attacks.

Clandestine Reports

GF151812 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] Reports from regions north of Kabul indicate that in recent action in the Panjshir Valley the mujahidin attacked a joint Soviet-Karmal military convoy and killed 200 enemy soldiers. In the same valley in another action against the joint enemy forces, the Muslim mujahidin killed some 100 infidel enemy soldiers. In these operations, the combined enemy forces also lost 17 tanks and military trucks.

According to another report, the combined Soviet-Karmal forces, using 900 tanks and armored vehicles supported by aircraft and helicopter gunships, recently attacked Jaghuri region. However, they were confronted with stiff mujahidin resistance and were repelled from the area. In this action the mujahidin destroyed or damaged 81 enemy tanks, personnel carriers, and supply vehicles.

Another report says that the Kabul-Salang Highway, which is a major supply route from the north to Kabul, was closed from 23 November to 3 December following mujahidin attacks on the highway. In their first attack on the highway, the mujahidin destroyed 4 fuel trucks and 20 other military trucks. In a second operation, the mujahidin attacked a convoy carrying gas cylinders, causing considerable losses to the enemy. Kabul City is currently facing a fuel shortage.

Canada's Clark Meets Gandhi, Discusses Sikhs

BK181605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] The Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, Mr Charles Joseph Clark, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. He was with him for about 30 minutes.

Mr Gandhi expressed appreciation for the measures taken by Canada in dealing with extremists. Mr Gandhi expressed the hope that Canada will follow it up with further steps in future. The prime minister accepted in principle an invitation from the Canadian prime minister to visit that country.

According to senior Canadian officials, Mr Clark told the prime minister that only a tiny minority was causing problems while the majority of Sikhs in Canada were against terrorism. Mr Clark conveyed to Mr Gandhi his government's determination to do all within the law to contain Sikh extremist activities in Canada.

Presents Extradition Treaty Proposal

BK190942 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Text] The Canadian secretary of state for external affairs, Mr Charles Joseph Clark, today disclosed that the draft proposal on extradition has been handed over to India for consideration. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi, he however refused to divulge the contents of the draft proposal. Discussions will be initiated soon between representatives of the two countries to work out an extradition treaty. Replying to questions, Mr Clark expressed his country's determination to do all within the law to fight terrorism. He said only a tiny minority was causing problems while majority of Sikhs in Canada were against terrorism.

'Text' of Bhagat Report to Parliament on Zia Visit

BK181507 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1439 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] Following is the full text of statement by B.R. Bhagat, minister of external affairs, in Lok Sabha Rajya Sabha on Tuesday 17 December 1985 on the visit of his excellency General Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan:

"The president of Pakistan, His Excellency General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, paid a brief visit to New Delhi today, 17 December, on his way home from an official visit to several countries in the region.

"President of Pakistan and our prime minister held talks on various matters of mutual interest. Talks were held in an extremely cordial atmosphere.

"The two leaders reaffirmed their determination to move rapidly towards complete normalisation of relations between the two countries and to this end to take positive and constructive action in coming weeks.

"The following decisions were taken:

"1. The finance Ministers of the two countries will meet in Islamabad from 5 to 7 January 1986 to consider agreements on expansion of trade and economic relations.

"2. The foreign secretaries of the two countries will meet in Islamabad in the third week of January 1986 to continue discussions on a comprehensive treaty and to discuss other confidence building measures.

"3. The four subcommissions set up under the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission will meet towards the end of January, early February 1986 to finalise their work. The full joint commission led by their respective foreign ministers will meet towards the end of February 1986.

"4. The two sides have agreed to work out an agreement whereby each will undertake not to attack the nuclear installation of the other.

"5. A cultural agreement will be signed between the two countries.

"6. All above measures will culminate in our prime minister's visit to Pakistan during the first half of 1986."

Foreign Minister on UK Deportation of Terrorists

BK180942 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] Legal experts of India and Britain are to meet in January for working out arrangements for deportation of terrorists and other wrongdoers. The minister of external affairs, Mr B.R. Bhagat, told the Lok Sabha during question hour today that the question of terrorists was strongly taken up with the British Government at different levels. The prime minister also brought up this issue during his last visit to London, he added.

Police Arrest 6,000 Protesting Punjab Accord

HK191114 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 19 (AFP) — Police here today arrested some 6,000 Hindus protesting against the Punjab peace accord and thwarted their move to storm the Indian parliment, the area police chief said.

Clashes left at least 34 policemen injured, Chief Maxwell Pereira said. He estimated the total strength of the protesters at 70,000.

"They came in thousands and we had a hard time controlling them," he said. "We fired as many as 60 tear gas cannisters and also used battons... but when they failed (to disperse), we arrested them."

The protesters from Hindu-dominated Haryana State were campaigning against the peace accord between Sikh moderates and the federal government.

The agreement gave the Sikhs claim over river waters and the federally administered city of Chandigarh, now serving as the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana.

Chief Periera said 6,000 were arrested for creating trouble. A police spokesman said they were heading to storm the Indian parliament. He said they were now being held in a sports stadium and may be released later today.

A spokesman for the protesters said that the demonstration was held because the federal government was not sympathetic to their requests for equal rights to the river waters and Chandigarh.

Last July Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sikh moderate leader Harchand Singh Longowal, who has since been assassinated, signed the agreement to end an autonomy campaign in the state. Sikh militants are still waging a fight for independence.

Assam Party Continues To Lead in Election Results

BK190348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Excerpts] The Asom Gana Parishad [AGP] continues to forge ahead of its rivals in the assembly polls. Out of the 75 results declared so far, the AGP has secured 40, and the Congress-I 17. The position of the other parties is: United Minorities Front six, Plains Tribal Council of Assam three, Congress-S two, CPI-M two, Independents five.

The AGP scored two major victories. Its president and chief, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta won the Nowgong assembly seat defeating the education minister, Mr Mikut Sarma. One of its prominent leaders, Mr Biraj Kumar Sarma, was declared elected from Guwahati East. Mr Biraj Kumar Sarma, along with the party general secretary, Mr Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, and Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, had signed the Assam accord on behalf of the agitation leaders. Mr Phukan has won from Julukbari.

The former chief minister and the present revenue minister, Mr Keshab Chandra Gogoi, won the Dibrugarh seat. The losers in this constituency include the AGP candidate, Mr Ananta Handik, and the former chief minister, Mr Golap Borbora. Mr Borbora also lost from the Tinsukia seat.

All India Radio's computer analysis of the available results shows that the AGP has wrested 31 seats from the Congress-I while continuing its winning spree. The party performed very well in the Brahmaputra Valley capturing 17 of the 18 results declared so far in Upper Assam. The party has got 17 seats out of the 30 results available from lower and central Assam districts. The Congress-I has retained its hold in the Barak Valley and hill districts and gained four seats at the cost of others. It has bagged all but two of the nine results declared so far in the Barak Valley while retaining three of the five results from the adjoining hill districts. The party's losses in 43 places elsewhere are mostly the gains of the AGP.

In the Lok Sabha byelections, former Bihar chief minister and former union minister, Mr Chandra Shekhar Singh, defeated the Janata Party general secretary, Mr George Fernandes, in the Banka constituency by over 37,000 votes. With this, the results of all the seven Lok Sabha by-elections have come in. The Congress-I won four, Janata two, and CPI-M one.

In the assembly byelections, the Lok Dal candidate, Mr Vinay Prasad Yadav, has been declared elected from the Kisanpur constituency in Bihar. He defeated his nearest Congress-I rival, Mrs Sudami Devi, by a margin of over 1,800 votes. With this, the results of all the nine assembly byelections held on Monday have come in. The Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] have bagged two seats each, while the CPI-M, the AIADMK [All India Anna DMK] and Lok Dal one each. The other two seats have gone to independents.

Commentary Views Outcome of Ziaul Haq Visit

BK180656 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Spotlight: "The Pakistan President's Visit" by Ranjan Gupta, foreign affairs commentator]

[Text] The 1-day business-like visit to Delhi by the president of Pakistan, General Ziaul Haq, is another highlight of the new cordiality generated by the SARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Dhaka and a new process of dialogue in South Asia. In fact, there was a firm stamp of the South Asian and Indian Ocean region to the Zia visit. The Pakistani president came to India from the Maldives and Sri Lanka after having met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, earlier in the month in Bangladesh. The official luncheon banquet for the visiting president was turned to a working lunch because of the death of the governor general of Mauritius — a courtry with strong emotional bonds with India and Pakistan. Though only a (? brief) stop by General Zia, it has aroused popular interest in India and a great deal of expectation. It is perhaps symbolic of the new across-the-board relationship that no fixed agenda for the talks was prepared. This certainly should have left a lot of scope for a heart-to-heart talk between our prime minister and the visiting president. It is a pity that General Zia did not accept Mr Gandhi's invitation to attend the opening of the Kalpakkam [nuclear] reactor. But, at least, he did come for lunch. Now that is no small matter. The leaders of India and Pakistan are talking to each other rather than talking at each other.

A dialogue between India and Pakistan is crucially important in resolving outstanding issues and creating trust, and it is in that context that General Zia's visit acquires importance. After all, the two countries are not far-off, and there is no reason why the prime minister of India or the president of Pakistan cannot phone each other or even hop across to talk over a problem. So far so good. A dialogue is essential to solve issues that continue to come in the way of cordial relations and, unfortunately, they are many. If the dialogue between India and Paksitan resolves issues, then it is worthwhile. But if a dialogue continues and at the same time there is, as it were from the back door, aggressive hostility, then, of course, the talking will be meaningless.

Lately, issues between Pakistan and India have moved away, as it were, from the diplomatic to the domestic. There has been a Pakistani attempt to fish in troubled waters of India. The beating up of two India diplomats is a case in point. Why hostile Sikhs living in far-off Canada should be permitted to use Pakistan as a platform for anti-Indian activities makes many wonder. Not so long ago, there was Pakistani interference in the problems of Punjab, and certainly many feel that Pakistan could do more to apprehend terrorists who seek refuge in that country. Then there is Pakistan's nuclear ambition, and a Pakistani bomb is no longer a hypothetical supposition but hard reality. In recent years, Pakistan has built up its military machines, gradually but steadfastly making up the losses it suffered in the 1971 war. Underneath nearly all Pakistani activities is a crazy competitiveness with India, which does not make sense considering how much larger and industrially developed India is.

There is also the problem of political system. India has the parliamentary democracy coexisting with the military government in Pakistan. While this may not matter much to India, it certainly affects Pakistan's outlook on to India. For example, Pakistan is not too keen to import newspapers and magazines from India, as it may affect the people there and arouse aspirations. It is in this tortuous background that General Zia's visit will have to be viewed. But because the problems are so many, there is scope for improvement. Perhaps relations between the two countries could move from official level to the people's level through trade and travel. In fact, trade received a fair deal of importance in the talks between Mr Rajiv Gandhi and General Zia.

The Pakistan president is accompanied by his economist finance minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq, and the Indian finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh, was associated with the talks. But in trade as in politics, Pakistan will have to shed its suspicion of India. There is immense scope for Pakistan to buy at cheaper rates from India, and there is no reason why it should not. Yet, as so tragically happened when India offered to sell wheat to Pakistan, it preferred to go to Canada and Australia for it. Trade for trade's sake is what Indian officials told their Pakistani counterparts.

History, intent, and the motive still guide Indo-Pakistani relations, which in some ways is natural. But historical legacies can sometimes be bitter and disruptive. It is absolutely essential that we do not view Indo-Pakistani relations in communal terms either here in India or in Pakistan. No Indian community is Pakistan's special concern. Relations between Delhi and Islamabad are those between two foreign governments. What does bind the two nations is the common struggle against the British imperialism — the desire for freedom and the long suffering that our leaders underwent to get independence. This common search for emancipation is often forgotten, and rather tragically the differences between the founding fathers are stressed. The seeds of discord was sown by outsiders, and it's time that bitter fruit was destroyed.

Both India and Pakistan are heirs to ancient civilization and a rich heritage, and the leaders of independence, who were political giants, drew on it for inspiration. History can still inspire India and Pakistan to coexist. The question of course is: [words indistinct] we are still at the dialogue stage, which had as its fountainhead the Simla Agreement between Indira Gandhi and Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Unfortunately, despite the long years since the agreement was signed, we have not moved very much ahead of the early contact stage. It is time that this constant attempt at dialogue is put in perspective. As I said earlier, a dialogue is no bad thing. There can be no quarrel with it. But the basic question is: Does the talking improve relation or continue to leave it in cold storage?

On the negative side, the most important development since the signing in Simla has been Pakistan's attempt at developing a nuclear bomb. With the bomb has surfaced Pakistan's ambition to dominate the region. Why, one may ask, is Pakistan so keen to develop a nuclear bomb when it is an agricultural country with no heavy industry worth the name? In other words, there is no industrial infrastructure to backup nuclear technology. It is probably to show to the world that it is more than equal to India in everything, and it is this mentality that is dangerous to the growth of Indo-Pakistani relations. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi put the nuclear question high on the agenda in his talks with President Zia, and that paid dividend as India and Pakistan have agreed not to attack each other's nuclear installations. This certainly augurs well for peace. It has also been decided that the finance ministers and the foreign secretaries of the two countries will meet next month. The prime minister's visit to Pakistan announced during General Zia's visit may lead to the much desired psychological revolution, which could lead to change of perceptions in India and Pakistan about each other.

Ziaul Haq Terms Regional Visit 'Successful, Useful'
BK180600 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said his visit to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and New Delhi has been very successful and useful. Addressing a crowded news conference at the Islamabad airport on his return home from New Delhi last night, the president said this visit was a journey of goodwill, understanding, brotherhood, solidarity, and harmony. He said during his brief visit to New Delhi he met the Indian president, Giani Zial Singh, and held talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. During the talks, which were held in an extremely cordial atmosphere, several important decisions were made. The president said the Indian prime minister will visit Pakistan in the first half of next year at the invitation extended by him and the prime minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo. He said they have also decided to promote bilateral relations and trade and it was decided that the finance ministers of the two countries will meet and a proposal for a treaty of friendship be merged. The foreign secretaries of the two countries will meet in Islamabad in the middle of next month to prepare a mutually acceptable draft. He said the two countries have also agreed not to attack each other's nuclear installations.

The president said India-Pakistan relations have always been marred by doubts and suspicions, which cannot be removed at once. However, the president said, a process has to be initiated in this regard. He hoped his meeting with Rajiv Gandhi will prove the first positive step toward the realization of this objective. Rajiv Gandhi has played a great role in creating a congenial atmosphere for achieving these objectives. He said the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani; the foreign secretary, Niaz A. Naik; and the Pakistani ambassador to India have played an important role in this regard during past 3 months.

About the summit conference of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Dhaka, the president said this (?forum) will provide opportunities for the heads of state and government of seven countries to discuss with each other matters relating to the welfare and well-being of their people. He said a major aspect of this organization is that the member nations will enjoy equal status and all decisions will be made by consensus. Bilateral issues will not be raised, and the member countries will work collectively for the development, well-being, and security of the region.

About Pakistan's relations with Bangladesh, the president said they are based on cultural and religious ties and will be further strengthened with the passage of time. About the donations collected by various Pakistani social service organizations for the cyclone-affected people of Bangladesh, the president said he handed the donations to President Ershad at a special function and the deep feelings of warmth and brotherhood expressed there will always be remembered.

Answering a question, the president said Paksitan has already fulfilled its all responsibilities regarding Biharis [persons stranded in Bangladesh since 1971] in accordance with the Pakistan-Bangladesh agreement. However, he had told a delegation of Biharis who met him in Dhaka that Pakistan is ready to accept them on humanitarian grounds and is making efforts to acquire financial assistance from other countries for Biharis' repatriation to and rehabilitation in Pakistan.

On his visit to Sri Lanka, the president said Pakistan has offered Sri Lanka loans on easy terms to purchase bicycles, motorcycles, steel products, fertilizers, and cotton from Pakistan. In return, Pakistan will buy tea, coconuts, rubber, and spices from Sri Lanka. A Sri Lankan delegation will soon visit Pakistan to finalize details in this regard.

About his visit to the Maldives, President Ziaul Haq said the two countries have decided to promote bilateral cooperation in the economic, educational, cultural, sports, civib aviation, tourism, and shipping fields. They have also signed an agreement for economic and technical cooperation.

Answering a question, the president said the situation now prevailing in the Khyber Agency has been created in the wake of antinarcotics activities and all these things have been done by a person at the instigation of the Karmal administration. The decision to check the activities of this person has been made by the elected government under the leadership of Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

FRG TV Interviews Ziaul Haq on Afghanistan
DW181130 Mainz ZDF Television Service in German 1845 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Interview with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq by correspondent Heinz Metlitzky in "The Reportage" program — in English with superimposed German translation; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Metlitzky] Why is it not possible to equip the mujahidin with more adequate weapons so that the Soviets will have to pay a very heavy price for occupying Afghanistan? The freedom fighters, for example, have no adequate antiaircraft weapons they could use against helicopters and MiG jets.
[Ziaul Haq] There are two aspects to the problem. One is the necessity to equip the mujahidin in Afghanistan militarily in such a way that they could successfully resist the most modern military machine, even if they cannot stop it, a machine acting against innocent, naked, freedom fighters.

That is one aspect of the problem. The second is how to do it. I want to make that quite clear, and I am certain that you have informed yourself about it. It is not Pakistan that has taken the responsibility to equip the freedom fighters or is abie to equip them. Pakistan cannot afford to do it. The second point is, how can we equip the freedom fighters in such a way that they could fight more effectfully and convincingly? As to your question, you see the matter correctly. However, how can that be changed? If Pakistan does it, it can cause the anger of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union is a superpower. Pakistan cannot afford to have a confrontation with the Soviet Union.

[Metlitzky] Can you rely on a U.S. guarantee for Pakistan, assuring you of military assistance in case the Soviets begin to

pursue the mujahidin beyond the borders of Afghanistan into Pakistani territory?
[Ziaul Haq] Now, Mr Metlitzky, I must be very frank with you again. We have never relied on the physical assistance of the United States. However, I want to use this opportunity to thank the United States for enabling Pakistan to stand on its own feet by selling, not giving, to us weapons to defend ourselves better. We cannot keep anybody from attacking us, but at least we can cope with incidents that you have mentioned in your question. So far, not many incidents of this kind have happened. Should that change, Pakistan will have to handle it itself.

Indirect Talks on Afghanistan Continue 3d Day
BK181647 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] The sixth round of the UN-sponsored indirect talks on Afghanistan continued for the third day today. The UN secretary general's special representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, had separate meetings with the delegations of Pakistan and Kabul. Although nothing was officially announced about the talks, APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] quoting informed sources in Geneva, has said that Cordovez wants enough time to give detailed consideration to the stand taken by the Pakistani and Kabul delegations on the fourth draft of the proposed agreement for a comprehensive settlement. This draft pertains to the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. These sources also say that the UN secretary general's special representative on Afghanistan had discussions with his assistants this morning on the fourth draft and on the steps for progress that he has been working on. The news agency says Pakistan wants to hold indirect talks on this draft. Pakistan contends that if the first three drafts can be given final shape through indirect talks, then there is no reason that the last draft cannot be disposed of in the same way.

PRC Delegation Visits Afghan Refugee Village
BK181143 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] The visiting 7-member Chinese delegation, led by the mayor of (Runki) city, Mr Ismail Mahsud, visited an Afghan refugees tented village at Nasirbagh near Peshawar this morning. Talking to the refugees, the leader of the delegation reiterated his country's support to the just struggle of Afghan people. He appreciated the people and the Government of Pakistan for providing shelter and other humanitarian assistance to such a large number of Afghan refugees. The Chinese delegation also visited a girls' middle school and a dispensary at the tented village to acquaint themselves with education and medical facilities being provided to the refugees.

Five Afghan 'Saboteurs' Arrested in Chaman
GF181840 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 Dec 85 p 1

[Text] Quetta, Dec 13: Border forces at Chaman arrested five Afghan saboteurs yesterday who crossed into Pakistan along with sophisticated weapons, official sources disclosed here today. The saboteurs include Khair Muhammad, brother-in-law of Asmatullah Muslim Abdullah, an officer of Afghan militia, Haleem, Musa and Khair Mohammad Khan.

The sources believe that the five Afghan saboteurs belong to the secret Afghan intelligence organisation "KHAD", and they were sent into Pakistan on a special mission to carry out saboteur activities in Afghan refugee camps and to create misunderstanding between the refugees and local population.

THE MUSLIM: Political Activities To Remain Suspended
GF181708 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Dec 85 p 1

[Report by Ashraf Hashmi: "Political Activities to Remain Suspended"]

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 12: Political activities in the country will remain suspended for some time even after the lifting of Martial Law and there will be no automatic revival of the defunct political parties in the country, according to reliable sources here. These sources expressed the view that mere revocation of the July 1977 proclamation by the President would not lead to automatic revival of the 1973 Constitution. The revival of the 1973 Constitution, they said, was subject to the powers given to the President under the Revival of the Constitution Order [RCO] 1985 which itself has now become a part of the Constitution. The President under the RCO has already restored some part of the Constitution even without lifting Martial Law.

Article 4 of the RCO says that the provisions of the 1973 Constitution as amended by the Order shall stand revived on such day as the President may, by notification in the official *GAZETTE*, select and different days may be fixed for different provisions. The President, they said, even after the revocation of the Proclamation of the 5th of July 1977 will notify the revival of the presently suspended provisions of the Constitution which include Article 17 relating to the freedom of association. Till the revival of Article 17 of the Constitution political parties and political activities in the country would remain prohibited.

In view of the prevailing situation and in order to control the sudden surge of political activities things will have to be arranged in an orderly way and it was, therefore, necessary to defer the revival of full political activities till the things had fully settled down, said one source.

Talking about the possible date for the lifting of Martial Law these sources said that it would be lifted some time between Dec. 27 to 31. It is said the President might be busy in connection with the wedding of his son on Dec. 25 and 26. The National Assembly will be in session after the joint sitting of Parliament on Dec. 23 and 24. The President, he said, may address the National Assembly any time before Dec. 31 and make his historic announcement ending eight years and five months of Martial Law in the country.

SRI LANKA

Malaysia Denies Pilots Involved in Sri Lanka

BK181111 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] The Malaysian High Commission in Sri Lanka has refuted allegation that about 20 aircraft have been flown to Jaffna by the Government of Sri Lanka and that some of those planes were piloted by Malaysian merceneries. A statement issued by the High Commission in Colombo has referred to a news item in which it was stated that the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA had quoted a statement by the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] in Madras alleging that the 20 aircraft, included Bell helicopters, Marquette fighter planes fitted with napalm bombs as well as transport planes.

The High Commission, in the strongest possible terms, has stated that there is no truth whatever in the allegation by a section of the media that Malaysian nationals are involved in Sri Lanka.

A similar rebuttal has also been made to *THE HINDU* newspaper by the Malaysian assistant high commissioner's office in Madras refuting this allegation and expressing regret that an unsubstantiated statement of this nature could have been given credence in the newspaper.

AFP: Two Soldiers Wounded in Tamil Attack

HK190834 Hong Kong AFP in English 0811 GMT 19 Dec 85

[Text] Colombo, Dec 19 (AFP) — Militant Tamil separatists wounded two soldiers when they opened fire on an army checkpoint in Sri Lanka's eastern province, security sources said today.

The militants early yesterday had crept through the surrounding jungle and opened fire on the soldiers as they checked a passing vehicle, wounding two of them, the sources said.

The militants withdrew after the soldiers returned the fire.

There was no immediate information on whether the militants suffered any casualties. Security sources said the wounded soldiers were out of danger.

No further details were immediately available.

Meanwhile, other security sources said that about 30 armed militants early yesterday had blown up an irrigation department building housing explosives used for blasting work.

They said the building at Ulichchi, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) from the eastern capital Batticaloa, was destroyed.

Last week Tamil militants seeking to set up an independent state in Sri Lanka's north and east had destroyed several other state and privately-owned buildings in the same province, official sources said.

The National Security Ministry, meanwhile, confirmed that two people were killed and four others wounded when a navy convoy was attacked by Tamil militants in the northern Jaffna peninsula on Tuesday.

Area residents said the two dead were civilians.

A group of soldiers was also attacked Tuesday with small arms and grenades, but did not suffer any casualties, the ministry said.

Meanwhile, the multiracial ceasefire monitoring committee has delivered a report on its investigations into ceasefire violations in the Jaffna district.

It said that some of the problems there could be eased if "service authorities maintained greater disciplinary control over security forces personnel" based there.

The problems included civilian casualties "when there is gunfire or exchange of gunfire" and the dislocation caused to civilians when public institutions and private dwellings have to be vacated or demolished for security reasons.

It said there had also been complaints of "harassment and robbery due to indiscipline among service personnel."

Citizens committees which appeared before the body monitoring the ceasefire between the security forces and militants had suggested that army camps be moved out of densely populated areas. But the committee has said this was outside its "province."

Romania's Ceausescu Invites Khamene'i To Visit

LD171342 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Mr Nicolae Stephan, the ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning met Mr Velayati and held talks on expanding bilateral cooperation in the various political and economic fields. During the meeting, the Romanian ambassador renewed Mr Ceausescu's invitation to Mr Khamene'i, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to visit that country and stressed the need to exchange senior delegations between the two countries.

Sunnis Congratulate Khomeyni on Montazeri Appointment

LD131541 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 13 Dec 85

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov. Dec. 13, IRNA — Sunni theologians here cabled a congratulatory message to the leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni on the appointment of Ayatollah Montazeri as his successor.

In the message the Sunni theologians wished longevity for the imam and said that they supported the Experts Assembly selection of Ayatollah Montazeri as the future leader of the Islamic Revolution noting that the decision was backed by the majority of the nation.

Khamene'i Praises Nation's War Contributions

LD171442 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Tuesday that financial assistance of Iran's civil servants and other people to the war effort have foiled all plots of enemies of the Islamic Revolution.

The president made the statement in a meeting Tuesday with groups of people who had come to submit to him their donations for war effort, totalling nearly rials 14 million (about dollars 156,000).

The president said that the moral value of people's donation is considerably greater than its material one, because they boost the morale of Iranian Muslim combatants.

Such assistance, he said, altough uncomparable with the heavy cost of the war, nevertheless is important in that it solves many difficulties of the country, Khamene'i said.

He said that the Iraqi regime and her supporters have been severely shaken by the great movements of Karbala caravan of Iranian para-military volunteers. Therefore, the president added they are trying to return lost morale to Iraqi Army.

Musavi Criticizes UN Resolution on Human Rights

LD151150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 85

[Text] At the end of today's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Musavi gave an interview to our correspondent in the course of which he strongly criticized the recent UN resolution concerning the violation of human rights in Iran. He said: It must be made clear whether the resolution's objection is directed against the implementation of the Islamic life-giving laws or whether it is directed against something else. If it is directed against the implementation of divine laws — as it appears to be — then, the United Nations has taken a stand against 1 billion Muslims in the world.

The prime minister then added: It is possible that there might exist a plot to the effect that, considering the earlier statement by officials of the Islamic Republic with regard to the need for the international community to condemn the Iraqi regime's aggression by resorting to such measures as issuing a resolution against the Islamic Republic, they wish first of all to devalue the condemnation of a government by the United Nations, then identify the Iraqi regime at the Security Council as the aggressor and condemn it [sentence as heard]. We declare, however, that the recent resolution robbed the votes given by the United Nations of their value forever.

The prime minister, continuing his remarks, also said: It is interesting that among those who voted in favor of the resolution there are such criminal regimes as Israel, Chile, Argentina, El Salvador, the industrial countries and, at their head, the world-devouring United States. As far as we are concerned, we are actually proud to have been accused by such countries of having violated human rights. As for the United Nations, it would serve it right to be humiliated by issuing a resolution against the Islamic Republic by means of votes given by those countries, some of which have already been accused of having violated human rights.

The prime minister then added: What is even more interesting is that the terrorist accusers who point to Iran as having violated human rights have recently officially announced in their publications that they have murdered 1,500 people over the last year and 10,000 people over the past 4 years. Obviously, since they receive twice the amount of money for every single innocent individual they murder from their Western masters, they therefore tend to exaggerate the number. Nevertheless, we are quite happy to be accused by such criminals of having violated human rights.

Remarks on Baha'is, Human Rights

LD161358 Tehran IRNA in English 1326 GMT 16 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 16, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Monday the U.S. support for the Iranian Baha'is indulged in espionage activities, showed the extent of America's hostility towards Iran. This animosity, he said, stemmed from the fact that the Islamic Revolution has seriously jeopardised U.S. interests.

Speaking to a group of workers of Bahman Refrigerator Manufacturing Company, here Monday, the prime minister added that the White House support for the Baha'is, was also indicative of the nature of the group and its activities.

Further on the recent allegations against Iran on the issue of human rights, Premier Musavi said these allegations were reactions of big powers against Iran, who, he said, have lost their interests in the country.

Further on the nature of U.S. administration, he said that the White House carried out its aggression under the pretext of defending freedom, and this was the way the U.S. military intervention in Grenada was justified.

He also praised endeavors of the workers and said that they were great assets of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

Bahman Company produces some 150,000 refrigrators a year.

Comments on Press Self-Censorship
LD172047 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec 17, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said today that the Iranian press is free to criticise but that its own selfcensorship is limiting its work.

Musavi who was a newspaper editor for two years before becoming the foreign minister and then the head of the Cabinet said the Islamic system of government can take a great deal of what he termed "mature criticism."

In an interview with the editors of the afternoon daily *ETTELA'AT*, Musavi said "I think in comparison to the press in other countries, the newspapers here are more lively in their reflections on sensitive social issues."

"The Islamic Republic has a great ability to take mature criticism as apparent in Majlis (parliamentary) Debates" he said referring to daily debates between deputies on government policy.

"Although there are certain limitations but the freedom of expression that exists in this country, is such as you will not find elsewhere in the world" he said. [sentence as received]

The Islamic Republic has four major dailies. Morning *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* is the official organ of the Islamic Republic party. Morning *ABRAR* supports reforms in land and property ownership. The two afternoon dailies *KAYHAN* and *ETTELA'AT* also publish viewpoints on social affairs.

Musavi said there is self-censorship in the press, and that there are many issues which must be reflected in the print media which are not. He believes despite that over the past few years the press has had more liberty.

"Self-censorship is not because of fear on the part of the writer/editor but rather it is because writers feel that by giving a more free reign to their pens they may unintentionally outrage the values of the revolution and thereby hurt the system."

He said no one is assigned to the task of censoring the press. He said the mediamen rely mainly on their own instinctive checks as which sometimes grows to an impediment to useful expression of facts in the Iranian society.

Musavi said the liberty of the press is a liberty to be attained as a result of the true understanding of pressmen and journalists of social issues and of their courage to give expression to that understanding.

"Newspapers must be centers for analysing information and lively think-centers in which case the government and the Majlis will value the viewpoints of the press."

The prime minister said that it is natural to have politically-oriented print media, but he warned the press to keep aloof of "factionalism or spiteful political motives."

After the 1979 Islamic Revolution the bulk of the newspaper publishers fled the country or quitted work. Imam Khomeyni appointed two managers for the two afternoon dailies. Today the print media adheres to the text of the Constitution. Financially it is primarily self-supporting.

Majlis passed a press law last month but the Guardians Council which supervises the implementation of the Constitution vetoed it for being against the spirit of the constitutional freedom of the press.

Several top religious theologians from Qom are planning to bring out a new daily called *RASALAT*, which is said to advocate a more limited government involvement in national economy.

Foreign Minister Receives Cuban Foreign Official
LD181855 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — The head of Cuba's Foreign Policy Higher Research Institute Dr. Valeseca conferred here Wednesday with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on expansion of ties between Tehran and Havana as well as international issues.

Valeseca said that the U.S. considers herself as the globe's gendarme whereas the issues of Mid-East and Central America have nothing to do with the security of the U.S. although she tries to interfere in these regions.

Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati said that Cuba was among the first countries which suffered at the hands of U.S. imperialism because of its revolution, but noted that Havana still supports revolutions and revolutionaries in the region. He added that the U.S. is aware of Cuba's role in that region, and therefore directs her attacks on the country.

Meanwhile, Valeseca met and conferred with Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of economic and international affairs Javad Larijani on international political issues.

UAE Foreign Minister To Visit 28 December

LD181126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 dec 85

[Text] At the invitation of Mr Velayati, the foreign minister, Mr Rashid Abdallah, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, will pay a visit to Tehran on Saturday, 7th Dey [28 December]. During the visit, there will be discussions and a exchange of views about bilateral relations, strengthening and expanding areas of bilateral cooperation, and matters related to the Persian Gulf security.

KEYHAN Lists Sources of Nation's Imports

GF160423 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 7 Dec 85 p 1

[By KEYHAN correspondent]

[Text] Kashan — Iranian imports during the current year are as follows:

From Islamic countries - 16.2 percent
From the West - 62.0 percent
From the East - 11.4 percent
From other countries - 10.0 percent

These figures were announced by Eslami Nasab, deputy chief of the Public needs Department of the Ministry of Commerce, during the most recent meeting of the board of directors of the chambers of commerce, industries, and mines of the entire country, held in Kashan. He added: The public sector share of the imports amounted to 81.73 percent, private sector share of the imports was 16.76 percent, and the share of cooperatives was 1.51 percent during the first 7 months of this year [figures as received]. The deputy chief of the Ministry of Commerce stated that most of the imports came from Japan, Turkey, West Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and England.

According to our correspondent's report, the most recent meeting of the board of directors of the chambers of commerce of the entire country was held to determine the ways and means to expand cooperation between the public and private sector and to look into ways to deal with economic terrorism. The participants in the meeting also proposed drafting rules and regulations to control the income tax laws and to establish organizations within the government to prevent clashes between income tax officials and employees.

Cabinet Discusses Civil Servants' Pay, Air Attacks

LD182001 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] This morning's Cabinet session, which was held in the presence of President Khamene'i, reviewed domestic and foreign issues, and discussion continued on ways of assisting the government employees in their expenses. During this session, while reiterating that the civil service employees are the most deprived strata of society, the president stressed: In planning to help the civil service employees, payment of cash subsidies should be avoided as the resulting inflation would eventually leave nothing in the purses of the state employees. The president added: Any work in this field should be a basic and specific move and it is thus better to solve the problem gradually but in a principled manner.

Mr Khamene'i went on: The fact that today the government is engaged in the welfare of state employees is part of our general policy of assisting the oppressed strata of society and it will not be limited to state employees. The government will not forget other deprived strata.

Today's Cabinet session also discussed preliminary studies of the headquarters for the welfare of the state employees, the health and hygiene of these employees. These studies were carried out with the cooperation of the Housing and Health Ministries. Members of the four committees of the headquarters were appointed.

Also during this session, a report was presented to the Cabinet on participation of the head of the Civil Aviation Organization at the recent ICAO meeting, and in view of the positive move of the ICAO meeting in condemning the actions of the aggressive Iraqi regime in threatening passenger planes and air piracy, it was decided that the activities should continue in order to clarify the extent of the Iraqi Regime's aggressive nature.

In the course of today's session, the Commerce Ministry was given permission to import up to $50 million of goods from abroad so as to supply the requirements of the cooperatives for state employees and workers.

Minigroup Members Arrested, Accused of Bombings

GF181314 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 10 Dec 85 p 19

[Report by the director general for information of Kordestan and West Azarbayjan]

[Excerpt] During the last 2 weeks, with the ceaseless efforts of unknown soldiers [sarbaz-e-gomnam], two groups of bomb planters who were on their way to Tehran to carry out sabotage activities were located and all the members of these groups arrested. These persons, who are members of counterrevolution minigroups in the western part of the country, have indulged in sabotage with the financial aid of the Iraqi regime. So far, a large number of other bomb planters who have committed sabotage within the country have been identified.

The director general for information of West Azarbayjan and Kordestan announced: During the last couple of months, organizations of counterrevolution terrorists in the Sa'in Dezh sector have suffered fatal blows, with a quantity of arms being confiscated, and 25 of them being apprehended in Bukan. Several organizations belonging to the defunct democrat party in Piran Shahr, Saqqez, and Miandoab have been destroyed. Some terrorist elements have also been arrested in Saqqez. He also said that in the same period the unknown soldiers of the imam succeeded in arresting a number of Iraqi spies who are financed by this regime.

Commentary on Saddam Husayn Visit to Moscow

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI Editorial

GF171215 Tehran International Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 17 Dec 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Moscow Is Obliged To Deal With Iraq Without Saddam," the newspaper *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* said editorially: The head of the Iraqi regime, Saddam al-Tikriti, arrived unexpectedly in Moscow. He was accompanied by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Tariq Hanna 'Aziz, and 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal. This sudden visit is undoubtedly linked to the unusual situation of the Saddamist army in the fronts and the departure of hundreds of thousands of the Muslim fighters within the framework of great Karbala convoys. These two matters currently and seriously worry the Iraqi regime and make it look bleakly to the future. The departure of hundreds of thousands of the soldiers of Islam to the fronts bodes bleakness to the symbols ruling in Baghdad with regard to the future of this regime. That is why the rulers of Baghdad act in such a way which indicates that they, by all means, want to boost the collapsing morale of the soldiers, the officers, and the military leaders in Saddam's army and be removed from this worrying situation.

Saddam's sudden visit — he is accompanied by a few of his close associates — mirrors the fact that the fear instilled in the soldiers of his army has also struck the hearts of the military commanders. It is the fear of the expected offensives of the army of Islam. Accordingly, Saddam was obliged to make this visit.

In its editorial, *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* also says: Saddam's recent behavior is undoubtedly similar to the last days of the buried shah in Iran. When the criminal, the dictator, and the treasonous elements feel that they have nothing to present, they are inclined to implicate others and make them share the same fate that awaits them. This is the last thing that could come to the mind of those who suffer crime sickness. As for the current situation of the ruling regime in Baghdad — according to those who protect it — it is carefully dealt with and this very shaky regime is placed under limitations. That is why the question that arises in the political arena is: Does Moscow believe that Saddam's requests are in the interest of the Soviet Union? Moscow undoubtedly views its future interests realistically. Its leadership is more sagacious [in adopting a suitable position] than in continuing its support for a collapsing regime as it was in the past. All the international institutions, even those who protect Saddam, have arrived at the foliowing conclusion: The elimination of Saddam is inevitable. Moscow is also obliged to view Iraq without Saddam's existence.

Tehran Arabic Commentary

GF171940 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 17 Dec 85

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Text] The visit by the president of the Iraqi regime to Moscow, which was announced suddenly yesterday, has aroused widespread interest among international political and media circles. The interest is not due to the timing of the sudden visit, but in the dimensions of this visit on the developments of the so-called Gulf war. Observers agree on the nature of the subjects that the Iraqi president and his accompanying delegation are carrying to Moscow. Foremost among these subjects is that of armaments, which is considered the main point of interest for the Baghdad rulers, particularly with indications that they are facing an increasing crisis in the war.

The Soviets, as is known, are still the primary suppliers of arms to the Iraqi regime, despite the fact that the years of war have shown a clear trend by the Iraqi regime toward the West, particularly in ensuring developed arms. However, the balance of Iraqi armament has continued to be from the Soviet Union. It is obvious that the Iraqi regime's requirements will not be confined to the limits of traditional arms. They will require advanced weapons which the Iraqi rulers believe will enable them to change the course of the war, which today is taking a direction that is not in their interests or aspirations.

We do not want to go into this subject at this time; however, it is necessary to cast some light on the Soviet Union's stance on this subject. First of all, it is known that the official Soviet stance condemns the war between the Iraqi regime and the Islamic Republic; however, it has not condemned the side which caused the war, even though it is clear who is responsible.

Secondly, it is known that in their arms deals the Soviets sell to the world under the condition that they have a say in the use of these arms and that such arms should not be misused as a tool for attack but should be used for defensive purposes. This is what the Soviets say officially. However, the course of the war which was instigated by the Iraqi rulers shows that these rulers do not abide by any humanitarian principles or moral standards in their use of arms. Many times, defenseless and innocent civilians have been direct targets of their attacks, such as in their use of ground-to-ground missiles and their aerial bombings of cities. This is the war conduct of the Iraqi rulers. It is obvious that the arms that they are endeavoring to get will be used for the same purpose.

The illegal use of arms by the Iraqi regime has not been denounced or rejected by the Soviets. This fact is affirmed by the continuation of their arms deals with Iraq, which have actually increased in recent years.

Thirdly, the Soviets are well-known for their interest in the causes of the peoples of world and their condemnation of regimes which practice policies of oppression and persecution against their people. They also defend leftist movements and parties in the world. However, when it concerns Iraq, all these concepts vanish from Soviet policy. It has not shown any tangible reaction to the large-scale extermination and persecution campaigns practiced by the Iraqi rulers against Iraqi citizens, including leftist parties, foremost of which is the communist party, whose leaders and cadres have been dispersed outside of Iraq while many of its members have been killed or imprisoned in Iraq. It is also necessary to note the collective extermination and large-scale sabotage carried out by the Iraqi Ba'thists against the Kurds and Kurdistan.

None of the incidents pointed out above have affected relations between the Soviets and the Iraqi rulers. However, these facts have become clear to public opinion, particularly inside Iraq, and obviously such a situation does not correspond with the future interests of the Soviet Union. A regime which is rejected by the people cannot continue to rule Iraq. When this regime is removed, then the oppressed people in Iraq and the sides which witnessed the violations and aggression by the Baghdad rulers will not forget which sides supported the Ba'thists of Iraq and provided them with the support needed to carry out violations and continue their rule.

As the Baghdad rulers resort to the Soviet Union, once again we see that the Soviets are undergoing a real test of their credibility of principles and the credibility of their commitment to the causes of peoples. They are facing a historic moment concerning the future of their relations with the Iraqi people and those who sympathize with them and reject the unjust regime of Baghdad. Herein lies our optimism. We wonder what stance will be taken by the Soviets toward the Iraqi regime in its latest move toward them. Undoubtedly the next few days will give the answers to this question.

Towhid's Shaykh Sha'ban Cited on Lebanese Struggle

LD171347 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 17 Dec 85

[Text] Isfahan, Isfahan Prov., Dec. 17, IRNA — The visiting leader of the Islamic Towhid Movement of Lebanon, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, speaking to IRNA here Tuesday said that there was an anti-Zionist trend among the Lebanese people, the youth in particular, and the campaign was being led by the Ulema.

Due to awakening the Lebanese Muslims, he added, some of these ulema had become target of terrorist attacks and harassment. One outcome of the campaign was expulsion of Zionist forces from southern Lebanon, he said.

He further stressed that the key for success of the struggle of Lebanese Muslims was their unity.

Commenting on holding of an international conference to find a solution to the Palestinian problem, he said that he believed such a conference aimed at selling out Palestinian cause rather than to materialise aspiration of the Palestinian people. Instead, he stressed, the only way for the liberation of the occupied Palestine was the holy jihad.

On the Iraqi-imposed war, he said one of the objectives behind the war was to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from being on the side of Palestinian people and from fighting against the Zionist regime. Enemies of Islam were aware of the fact that such a unity would mean an end to the Zionist regime, he added.

Meanwhile in a speech to the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps in an IRGC garrison in Isfahan, Shaykh Sha'ban praised effective steps taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Palestinian and Lebanese people. One such step, he added, was dispatching of Iranian medical team to Lebanon, while it was under Zionist fire.

Shaykh Sha'ban held a meeting with the governor general of Isfahan Monday night and also paid tribute to the city's martyrs at the Isfahan cemetery. He also visited Isfahan historical monuments.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,323

LD181649 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 18 Dec 85

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — Intruding Iraqi war planes bombarded outskirts of Huwayzeh 25 kms southeast of Susangerd, Khuzestan province, at 13:50 hours local time (10:20 hours GMT) Tuesday, wounding two Iranian civilians and killing a number of livestock, according to a minitary communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Wednesday.

In its Communique Number 2323, the Command says that at least 200 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the western fronts on Tuesday when their artillery and armoured units and troop concentration centers were heavily shelled by Iran's combatants.

The Iranian artillery fire on enemy positions in these fronts Tuesday also blasted 10 various enemy positions of light and heavy weaponry and tanks and destroyed one munition dump, one tank and one mortar launcher, retorts the Joint Staff.

The Joint Staff further said that reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in the western fronts and other Iraqi operations in Helaleh and Naft-e Shahr during the past 24 hours were halted by Iranian ground and anti-aircraft artillery fire.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, Iraqi troops incurred considerable casualties and losses by artillery fire of the Islamic forces on Tuesday.

Iranian artillery and tank fire on an enemy armoured unit in Chazzabah in the southern fronts Tuesday, prevented it from moving, according to the communique.

Elsewhere the communique says that Iran's Gendarmerie forces checking movements of enemy units opened fire on their positions across the Arvand River on Tuesday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi troops.

Meanwhile, the City of Abadan in Khuzestan Province suffered damage by the enemy long-range artillery fire over the past 24 hours.